



Literally Speaking



Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy 1000 Avocado Ave, Newport Beach, CA 92660 (949) 717-3874

Dec 2011/Jan 2012



A publication of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy, a program of the Newport Beach Public Library

Sandcastle Success!

On a bright, sunny October 2nd morning, *Team Litera-Sea* assembled at Corona del Mar State Beach to begin the job of creating a work of art in sand.

Based on a design by learner Piernicola Cocchiaro — an artist in his own right — Board President Nancy Thompson worked together with several including learners, tutors and supporters to bring the design to life.

This is the first year Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy has participated in the annual **Corona del Mar Sandcastle Contest** and it turned out to be a great community-building exercise; the final creation even garnered an Honorable Mention as well as media attention.

All who participated have not stopped expressing their excitement and willingness to join in again next year.

Thank you to everyone who put in their time and effort to make the event a success!



Sandy and Stephanie Beckman, with Board President Nancy Thompson



The bucket brigade!



Sandcastle designer, Piernicola Cocchiaro



Putting the finishing touches on the mermaids

Get A Job Toolbox

Have you have been struggling to find a job? Do you need help to polish up your skills? Then this workshop is for you.



Beginning in January 2012 and running through April, we will be holding a series of workshops to help participants improve their job finding skills.

Each workshop is designed to cover a different area of the job search: Finding the right job, skills assessments, resumes, networking and preparing for interviews.

Class size is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to contact the literacy office to sign up soon.

Annual Holiday Potluck

On Saturday, December 3, tutors, learners, volunteers and community members gathered at the Central Library for the 2011 Annual Holiday Potluck.

After tasting the wonderful array of international treats shared by tutors and learners, everybody participated in the now traditional and fun game of "get-to-know-you bingo." Nancy Thompson, Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy advisory board president, was the Master of Ceremonies for the morning. She spoke about the successes of 2011, the program's 25th anniversary year and introduced the incoming board members, Jill Taylor Shaver & Daniel Almendarez. She then turned the program over to NBPL Support Services Coordinator, Melissa Kelly, to introduce the 2011 Volunteer of the Year, Carol Hazelwood, the program founder.

Carol started the program in her home in 1986 and has been involved since - as a mentor, teacher, tutor and board member. She claims the success of the program is due to perseverance and "just putting one foot in front of the other." Although she is retiring from her board service, Carol hopes to continue teaching her very popular idioms class. She was given a commemorative photo album of her years in the program.

Literacy Coordinator Cherall Weiss thanked Nancy Thompson for her guidance over the last two years with a personalized Cross pen. Nancy has agreed to remain as the advisory board president for one more year.



Throughout the morning everyone shared experiences with each other. It was a fun morning and a wonderful start to the holiday season.

"If you can read this, thank a teacher."

~ Anonymous teacher ~

The Fall 2011 issue of *Notebook: Resources for the Adult Educator*, a ProLiteracy membership publication, is now available!

Notebook is a 16-page resource designed especially for teachers and tutors and is published three times per year as a benefit for ProLiteracy members. Each article describes a ready-to-use teaching idea related to reading, writing, listening and speaking, numeracy, or a practical application of literacy skills such as making a budget.

Access an electronic version of this issue along with related expansion materials at www.proliteracy.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=530.

If your learner is working to obtain their GED, **New Readers Press** has a website for you.

GED Teacher Resource Center offers free Pre-GED and GED classroom activities, teaching links, discussion boards and more. Look also for GED Practice & Pass, a computer-based practice for GED tests. Visit www.newreaderspress.com/GED.

New Readers Press

A Publishing Division of ProLiteracy

Learner Accomplishments

- Passed citizenship test
- Got a new job
- Interviewing for residency
- Community volunteer

New Tutors

We would like to welcome our graduating class of tutors for Autumn 2011! Your time and effort is truly appreciated.

David Weber
Jacqui Larkin
Stacy Assar
Sharon Wood
Mary Ann Walsh

Libby Bernay
Janet Blakely
Meredith Frye
Stephen Sholkoff
Sheila Lane



President's Message



It is cold and rainy today, not the kind of day that you think of when you think of Southern California. However, it is a perfect day to reflect on the accomplishments of a wonderful team of people who have successfully moved the program to a new and higher level this past year.

Our 25th Anniversary was truly a year for celebration and we honored that milestone with significant progress. Our numbers are growing with respect to learners and tutors. Three years ago we worried about being 'Newport Beach's best-kept secret'. Now we need to be concerned that we are able to meet the needs of all of those who seek us out.

We branched 'outside' the box and took our program to the Hyatt Hotel where employees were able to work on their own skill development during their workday. Thank you, Hyatt Hotel, for being a willing partner with us! Now we are looking forward to including a series of classes on Job Skills Development to our regular curriculum.

The Gift of Literacy Luncheon was a record success and next year we will welcome Alan Brennert. Save May 4, 2012, and plan to attend. His best-selling novels are currently the hot book club choices.

We have learned to be flexible in our celebratory year as the library is undergoing massive remodeling in conjunction with building the new city hall. Space is at a premium and the library was even closed for two weeks. Yet our intrepid group of tutors and instructors managed to keep the program going. No one wants to interrupt our dedicated learners! Flexibility came in another way as your Advisory Board decided to participate in the Annual Corona del Mar Sandcastle Contest. Tutors, learners and their families skillfully assisted board members, along with their families and friends. We wanted to create a greater awareness along with having fun. Not only did we achieve our objective but won Honorable Mention and became aware of muscles that we didn't know we had.

In closing, it was a wonderful year. However, I can't say goodbye to 2011 without expressing my appreciation to Carol Hazelwood. She is the founder of our program and has been its guiding light for many years. She is my mentor and it truly has been my pleasure working with her these past three years. A wonderful lesson to be learned from Carol is the 'power of one'. One person can truly make a difference. What difference can each one of us make in this New Year?

Thank you to each of you for your support and generous contributions of time, talent and funds. Best wishes for 2012.

Sincerely,

Nancy Thompson



Tutors: Thank you for turning in your monthly report by the 3rd of each month!

27th Annual SCLLN Literacy Conference

Save the date for the best one-day literacy conference in Southern California. Workshops for learning from great presenters and your colleagues. Time for networking and great food!

Saturday, February 25, 2012

Buena Park Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center

Phone/Fax: (714) 730-4877

Email: conference@sclln.org



Getting the Word Out

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy has been making a push in 2011 for recognition in the community. Thanks in large part to the efforts of Advisory Board member Lorna Harris — in charge of marketing and publicity — we now have a presence on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and soon, our own channel on **YouTube**.

We have also partnered with local radio station **KOCI 101.5FM**, which is running a twice-daily PSA promoting our program.

And, in early November, José Nuñez, Creative Director of **Bad Bunny Studios**, came to the library to interview several tutors and learners with the intention of putting together a promotional video that can be used to publicize our program in the community.



It will be a valuable tool for attracting financial support as well as more tutors! We premiered the video at our annual Holiday Potluck in December.



Literally Speaking

Literally Speaking, the newsletter of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy at the Newport Beach Public Library, is published bi-monthly and sponsored by corporate and private donations.

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Learner's Corner

Summer in Japan

By Tomoko Katayama

It was the long, long summer. The biggest event for us as usual, we went to Japan in August. This summer I decided to stay there a shorter time than usual. This spring the big earthquake and tsunami suffered Japan and it was made electric shortage. Japan is hot in the summer so most of people use air conditioner. I expected it would be possible to have a blackout during our stay. The electric company selected time to turn off electricity after the earthquake. My parents' house had no electricity for several hours in a day at different times prior to my arrival. I thought if my parents' house will have it again in the summer and we could not use air conditioner, it would be a terrible situation for my parents who are old. Luckily, it never happened.

We were busy while we stayed in Japan. There were only a few days we stayed at the house all day. We went to grocery shop with my mother or my brother at that times. I really enjoyed looking and shopping Japanese materials and food. We met some friends. Whenever I saw their children, I was surprised that they grew up quickly. My friend and I talked about our children's lives since last summer and our concerns about them. I realized again every parent has the same concerns even though it is different between my friends and me.

The biggest event in Japan was going to Japanese hot spring with my parents and my brother. We stayed over two nights at the hotel. We took the hot springs three times in a day; in the morning, the afternoon and the night on the second day. We also enjoyed taking a walk and eating wonderful Japanese dishes. The scenery from the window in the room was a mountain view. My mother found a small waterfall in the mountain.

Every summer, my mother gives many special experiences to my daughter, Izumi. My mother helped with her Japanese school homework, as well going to grocery shop, making Japanese *mochi* together, and so on. Izumi helped preparing dishes, chopsticks, cups before dinner and lunch. I think Izumi will never forget these memories in her life.

I wondered about the situation of Japanese electric economy in the city. However, it was almost normal. The grocery stores, department stores, and trains used air conditioner as usual. I found some lights turned off in the train in the daytime and electric hand dryers at the public bathroom were off, and we used our own small towel. Of course many people try to save electricity.

My brother plants a vegetable named *goja* which has vines outside a window of the house. He set a big net to the top of the window so the *goja*'s tendrils grow up the net. Finally it made a green curtain. It shut the outside sunshine. The green curtain was beautiful which we enjoyed. Many people plant the same vegetable to save electricity as well as provide food.

It was bitter, so my children didn't like it, but it is very healthy food. I ate it a lot and enjoyed it. If the earthquake didn't occur, people wouldn't consider saving electricity. Japanese people realize they used electricity too much so far. They will keep saving energy. I think I should follow them.

However, we should not forget twenty thousand people died and are missing on the earthquake and tsunami. It passed six months already. People who have suffered lost their homes and jobs. They tried to get on with their lives but they have to face their hardship. I hope their life will be better step by step. 🐼

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 Newport Beach, CA 92660

Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Thursdays, 10:30 am	Life Skills Dialogue
December 2, 16	Fridays, 9:30 am	Advanced Life Skills Dialogue*
December 3	Saturday, 10:00 am	Holiday Potluck
December 5, 12, 19	Mondays, 10:30 am	Book Club
December 5, 19	Mondays, 6:30 pm	Communicating with Confidence
December 6, 13, 20, 27	Tuesdays, 10:15 am	Discussion Class
December 6	Wednesdays 10:00 am	Writing Workshop
December 7	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Movie Talk
December 12	Mondays, 6:30 pm	Evening Life Skills Dialogue
December 23-January 2		Library Holiday Closure
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Tuesdays, 10:15 am	Discussion Class
January 4	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Movie Talk
January 5, 12, 19, 26	Thursdays, 10:30 am	Life Skills Dialogue
January 7, 21	Fridays, 9:30 am	Advanced Life Skills Dialogue*
January 9, 23	Mondays, 6:30 pm	Evening Life Skills Dialogue
January 10	Tuesday, 7:00 pm	Advisory Board Meeting
January 16	Monday	Library Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 18	Wednesday, 6:00 pm	New Learner Orientation
January 23, 30	Mondays, 6:00 pm	Job Skills Seminar**
January 25	Wednesday, 6:00 pm	New Tutor Orientation

* By invitation only. Must attend Monday or Thursday Life Skills Dialogue class to be eligible

** Pre-registration required

Note: All programs are held at the Central Library unless otherwise posted and subject to change.
 For more details, contact the literacy office at (949) 717-3874 or email us at literacy@newportbeachca.gov